

Date: 3/04/21

City, State: Newport, RI

Certainty Index: Atypical

Narrative: Caller said her husband had shown her the article about Seresto flea collars and that she was calling to report her dog's adverse reaction to a Seresto flea and tick collar (active ingredients imidacloprid, flumethrin). Caller said she placed a large-size collar on her dog, a rescued German shepherd estimated to be 9-10 years old at the time, a year ago. Caller said the dog weighs 70 pounds and is neutered. Caller said that "a couple of days" after the dog began to wear the collar, she noted that his head would begin nodding as if he was having a mild seizure. Caller said that it got worse, and she noticed when his head bobbed his "eyes looked wacky" and he began suffering incoordination, where he would stumble when walking. Caller said he was bobbing his head every hour or two. Caller said she took the collar off after 6-8 weeks but that she did not wash his regular collar and when she did not see an improvement, she put the collar back on. Caller said she removed it again, this time bathing the dog and his regular collar thoroughly. Caller said he improved within 24 hours, but neither the head bobbing, nor the stumbling have completely gone away. Caller said her veterinarian has no other explanation. Caller said she tried this collar several years ago but did not replace it. Caller said her husband had noticed the dog stumbling more during that time also. Caller said she also wanted to report this to the manufacturer.

Discussed NPIC services, including sharing information with the EPA on incidents. Discussed that manufacturers are required to share incident information with the EPA as well. Provided contact information for manufacturer.

Resources used: NPIC technical fact sheet for imidacloprid, Small Animal Toxicology 3rd ed.